



# HONG KONG PROTESTORS CLASH WITH POLICE

## **Hong Kong protestors clash with police**

Protestors demanding democracy in Hong Kong clashed with the police as the law enforcement officers tried to clear a major road that has been blocked for the past few days. The protestors had blocked a main road leading to the government headquarters ever since the protests started 2 weeks ago. Police officers numbering in hundreds attacked the protestors on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> October and used pepper spray to disperse them. Within a few hours, the main road leading to the government district was cleared.

There have been reports of numerous protestors being arrested by the police and some news agencies claim that many protestors have also been injured in the clashes with police. However, the police spokesman denied that any protestor was injured and claimed that they only arrested the protestors that were assaulting law enforcement officers. According to him, 4 officers were injured when protestors attacked them with umbrellas and sticks. There have been images circulating online that show police officers manhandling demonstrators and the action of Hong Kong's law enforcement authority is being criticized for being too excessive and brutal.

This was not the first clash between demonstrators and police. A few hours' earlier officers also used chain saws to cut through barricades that had blocked Hong Kong's financial district. According to the same police spokesman, the crackdown on citizens was imminent as they were gathering on main roads without permission and disrupting the city's law and order despite many warnings. However, the police have still not been able to clear all the encampments in the city and demonstrators are still present in the districts of Admiralty and MongKok.

This civil disobedience campaign began on 28<sup>th</sup> September when it was announced that the candidates for the 2017 Hong Kong elections would be selected by China. China exercises political control over Hong Kong and last month it announced elections in Hong Kong for the first time. However, the announcement quickly sparked protests when it was revealed that while the citizens would be able to vote, China would decide the candidates that would contest the election. Since then, the protestors had blocked the main thoroughfares of the city and staged a sit in at various places. The demonstrators are demanding free and fair democratic elections where anyone has the right to contest. The demonstrators are mostly students and activists from "Occupy Central", which advocates for democracy in Hong Kong. Thousands of citizens have joined this civil disobedience campaign and the recent crackdown on citizens is being seen as a desperate attempt by the government to maintain its control.

### Reference

<http://www.researchomatic.com/democratization-in-hong-kong-and-singapore-178558.html>